

Top Secret



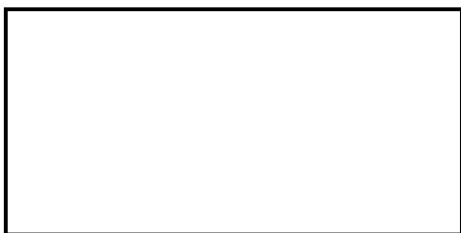
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UK-RHODESIA: Prospects for Douglas-Home mission
are uncertain.

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[REDACTED]

UK-RHODESIA: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DOUGLAS-HOME WILL GO TO RHODESIA ON 14 NOVEMBER, BUT PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT ARE STILL UNCERTAIN.

BY SENDING DOUGLAS-HOME TO SALISBURY, PRIME MINISTER HEATH MAKES GOOD HIS ELECTION PLEDGE TO MAKE A FINAL ATTEMPT TO SETTLE THE SIX-YEAR-OLD RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE DISPUTE. [REDACTED]

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25X1 [REDACTED] FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS SAY THAT NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, HAVE NOT ADVANCED AS FAR AS THE GOVERNMENT HOPED BEFORE DOUGLAS-HOME MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SMITH. NONETHELESS THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONSENSUS WITHIN THE HEATH GOVERNMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IS NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THE TALKS FURTHER. MOREOVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO SHORE UP ITS SUPPORT AMONG RIGHT-WING TORIES, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOT YET COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING CRUCIAL LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO EFFECT BRITISH ENTRY INTO THE EC.

THE BRITISH DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR ABOUT A WEEK. THE FIRST THREE DAYS WILL BE DEVOTED TO TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE RHODESIAN PUBLIC, AFTER WHICH DOUGLAS-HOME WILL MEET WITH SMITH.

SEVERAL POINTS OF CONTENTION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND RHODESIA REMAIN TO BE SETTLED, PARTICULARLY ON PROGRESS TOWARD ENDING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE BRITISH CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT ANY AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO ADHERE TO THE KEY PRINCIPLE OF UNIMPEDED PROGRESS TOWARD MAJORITY RULE. [REDACTED]

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25X1 [REDACTED] SMITH WANTS A SETTLEMENT BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, HE HAS RECENTLY COME UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM HIS OWN PARTY TO TAKE EVEN MORE RESTRICTIVE RACIAL SEGREGATION MEASURES. THIS WILL OBVIOUSLY GREATLY COMPLICATE HIS EFFORTS TO MEET THE BRITISH EVEN HALF WAY ON THIS POINT.

IN THE EVENT THAT AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED, THE BRITISH ENVISAGE A TWO- OR THREE-MONTH PERIOD DURING WHICH A "GENUINE TEST" OF RHODESIAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD BE MADE TO DETERMINE IF THE ACCORD

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IS ACCEPTABLE. WITHOUT SPECIFYING THE MEANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS, A BRITISH OFFICIAL SAID THAT SMITH HAS ASSURED LONDON THAT IT COULD CARRY OUT THE TEST IN ANY MANNER IT WISHED.

THE AFRICAN NATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE DISPLEASED WITH ANY SETTLEMENT TERMS THAT MAY BE ACHIEVED AND WILL PROBABLY INSIST THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA BE RETAINED.

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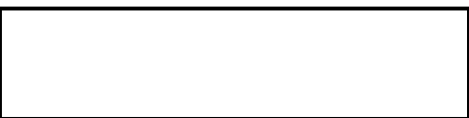
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